

To: JOHNSON York[JOHNSON.York@deq.state.or.us]
Cc: Carlin, Jayne[Carlin.Jayne@epa.gov]
From: Phillips, Kathryn
Sent: Wed 2/18/2015 6:59:52 PM
Subject: RE: Kilchis River & Tillamook Success Stories -- finishing up?

That's great! (What a relief.) ☺ I'll send them both on to EPA HQ for formatting and posting.
THANKS for your help, as always!

Cheers,

Kary

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kathryn.phillips@tetrattech.com

From: JOHNSON York [mailto:JOHNSON.York@deq.state.or.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 1:52 PM
To: Phillips, Kathryn
Subject: RE: Kilchis River & Tillamook Success Stories -- finishing up?

This text sums up the situation very well. I think we are good to go.

Thanks again for all your help with this!

York Johnson

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North Coast Basin Coordinator

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From: Phillips, Kathryn [<mailto:Kathryn.Phillips@tetrattech.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 10:49 AM

To: JOHNSON York

Subject: RE: Kilchis River & Tillamook Success Stories -- finishing up?

Hi York,

Thanks for the call about the Kilchis River revised text—and for letting me know that, at least for the foreseeable future, the Kilchis will remain listed as impaired for bacteria because of the competing designated use issues (shellfish/fecal coliform & recreation/E. coli).

Here are the final text changes that I propose for the Kilchis:

In **Waterbody Improved** section, remove the last sentence and add (new text in yellow)

Data show that bacteria levels have dropped significantly and have met water quality standards since 2009. ~~However, the Kilchis River remains listed as impaired while statewide water assessment procedure issues are resolved.~~ However, the Kilchis River remains listed as impaired while additional assessments are performed.

Under **results section**, remove the last sentence and add (new text in yellow)

Previous DEQ assessments classified the river as an impaired water covered by the Tillamook Bay TMDL and restoration plans. ~~Incorporating the recent data into DEQ's next assessment and reporting process will likely re-classify the Kilchis River as attaining Oregon's recreational use standards for bacteria.~~ Because Tillamook Bay does not support its shellfish waters designated use due to elevated bacteria levels, the Kilchis River, which feeds into the bay, will remain listed as impaired for bacteria pending additional water quality assessments in the larger Tillamook Bay watershed.

???? If you don't think this captures what we need to say then I will wait until you get back next week and you can tweak it as needed. ☺

Thanks,

Kary

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From: Phillips, Kathryn
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 12:53 PM
To: JOHNSON York
Subject: FW: Kilchis River & Tillamook Success Stories -- finishing up?

Hi York,

I'm just checking in, trying to close the loop on the Tillamook and Kilchis "making progress" success stories.

At this point I am a little unclear about where we stand and what Gene Foster (and others?) might want changed on the Kilchis story before we can move forward with posting these.

I think the Tillamook is ready to go as it is, right? I've attached the final Word version of both of these stories. Please make any text adjustments in tracked changes and I will use these as the final versions.

Thanks,

Kary

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From: YON Donald R [<mailto:YON.Donald@deq.state.or.us>]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 1:56 PM
To: Phillips, Kathryn; JOHNSON York
Cc: YON Donald R
Subject: RE: Kilchis River Success Story: future delisting-related text

Sorry I thought York was working with you to give you Gene's language and comments. I also added Responses from Karla and York. So here they are:

Sounds to me like it's a partial success story.

Although the e. coli data for the freshwater of Kilchis are meeting the recreational WQS (No single sample >406 or 126 geomean of five samples collected within 30 days) [This is the success part of the story]

We are not yet meeting the TMDL allocation for the Kilchis for Tillamook Bay to meet the shellfish growing area fecal coliform WQS (14 FC median or not more than 10% FC > 140) [Not yet successful]

Because e. Coli can be a component of Fecal coliform (in the past the TMDL Program has used a regression for converting Fecal coliform to e. coli and vice versa); and the Fecal coliform WQS is lower than the e. coli WQS; meeting the e. coli WQS does not mean we are meeting the Fecal coliform WQS or the TMDL allocation. This could be the case for the Kilchis and Tillamook Bay and fecal coliform.

York - you might want to work with Kevin or Julia about using the regression model for converting the Kilchis E. coli freshwater data to a fecal coliform estimate and compare that estimate to the fecal coliform allocation for the Kilchis. Or ask EPA's contractor to do that.

Depending on the result of that analysis, we can say that the Kilchis is meeting the e. coli WQS (I am assuming this is so, based on what people have been writing but I haven't actually looked at the data). But, the Kilchis is not meeting the TMDL allocation for fecal coliform (also what I have read w/o actually seeing the data). If this statement is true, this will need to be explained to EPA and their success story team. I would not want EPA or the public to think bacteria reduction work is completed on the Kilchis, unless that is actually the case.

cheers

Gene

Yes, I think the success is that the Kilchis is meeting the E. coli freshwater WQS (406/126)

But for other bacteria we are not, based on the following:

1. The Tillamook Bay bacteria TMDL was developed to meet the fecal coliform WQS for shellfish growing areas
2. Currently, Tillamook Bay is not meeting the fecal coliform WQS
3. The Kilchis River was given a bacteria allocation in the Tillamook Bay bacteria TMDL for meeting the fecal coliform WQS in Tillamook Bay
4. The Kilchis River is not meeting it's Tillamook Bay bacteria TMDL allocation
5. I think the last sentence of the Kilchis River success story needs to be rewritten so that it is clear that the Kilchis is meeting the E. coli freshwater WQS (406/126), but is not meeting the allocation for the Tillamook Bay bacteria TMDL

Thoughts?

cheers

Gene

Hi York –

Thanks for conversation to clarify.

I think “impaired waters” is used broadly by Jayne, but both statements are somewhat on track. Try this statement:

Data collected in partnership with local groups show that the Kilchis River main stem now meets recreational use standards for bacteria. Previous DEQ assessments classified the river as an impaired water covered by the Tillamook Bay TMDL and restoration plans. Incorporating the

recent data into DEQ's next assessment process and reporting will likely re-classify the river as attaining Oregon standards for bacteria.

Fyi – The last comprehensive assessment of bacteria data for the Integrated Report was in 2004. This is a good reminder that the long delays and partial coverage of DEQ's 303d assessments are not meeting programs and public needs for current and complete assessment information. It would be good to continue the conversation Don Yon initiated with Jayne Carlin on how to work towards having the data ready and a plan for incorporating it into all the program reports that are in preparation as well as ready for the next assessment. This starts with needing a functioning environmental data management system for monitoring data.

Karla

Thanks Karla

With the Kilchis meeting the bacteria recreational WQS, does that mean it is also meeting its TMDL allocation for the Tillamook Bay bacteria TMDL? If not, does that affect our ability re-classify the Kilchis?

thanks

Gene

That section you cited from the TMDL is consistent with the fecal coliform standard, which would be applied in the assessment to evaluate fecal coliform data for shellfish growing waters.

For e. Coli data, we would assess using the e. Coli criteria for other waters that protects the recreational use.

340-041-0009

Bacteria

(1) Numeric Criteria: Organisms of the coliform group commonly associated with fecal sources (MPN or equivalent membrane filtration using a representative number of samples) may not exceed the criteria described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph:

(a) Freshwaters and Estuarine Waters Other than Shellfish Growing Waters:

(A) A 30-day log mean of 126 E. coli organisms per 100 milliliters, based on a minimum of five (5) samples;

(B) No single sample may exceed 406 E. coli organisms per 100 milliliters.

(b) Marine Waters and Estuarine Shellfish Growing Waters: A fecal coliform median concentration of 14 organisms per 100 milliliters, with not more than ten percent of the samples exceeding 43 organisms per 100 ml.

Is there an equivalency discussed in the TMDL for e. coli results to fecal coliform results? Or fecal coliform data at the mouth of the Kilchis to show it meets the fecal coliform load allocation?

Karla's response to York.

Hello Everyone,

Please correct me if I'm not interpreting the TMDL appropriately but to meet the shellfish standard the rivers need to be at 42 count/100ml of fecal coliform.

Tillamook Bay TMDL Load Allocation (page 67)

“There was no seasonal variation in the dilution at sites in the conditionally approved (shellfish) zones in the Bay.

Therefore, given a concentration of 42 COUNTS/100 ml at the River mouths and the 3:1 dilution ratio, the

fecal coliform standard would be met at the conditionally approved shellfish harvesting areas. The load capacity of 42 COUNTS/100 ml at the river mouths is in effect throughout the year to attain the shellfish criterion in the Bay.”

I don't believe that the Kilchis will meet the above criteria base on the E. coli data that I've seen. As I mentioned please correct me if I'm misinterpreting the intent of the TMDL.

Thanks,

York Johnson

Gene –

I'll defer on the Tillamook Bay TMDL allocation question to someone involved with implementing the TMDL.

As far as the WQ assessment goes, the evaluation of monitoring data has always been to compare data to water quality numeric standards or other benchmarks.

The questions was raised in the past about how potentially a comparison for temperature data would be made to something developed in a regional TMDL based on natural thermal potential, but we dodged that question since it was too complicated (involving timing and location), and now may be irrelevant. I don't know how water data would be compared to load allocations. Aren't the allocations derived to meet the water quality standard?

Karla

Thanks Karla

With the Kilchis meeting the bacteria recreational WQS, does that mean it is also meeting its TMDL allocation for the Tillamook Bay bacteria TMDL? If not, does that affect our ability re-classify the Kilchis?

thanks

Gene

From: Phillips, Kathryn [<mailto:Kathryn.Phillips@tetrattech.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 7:12 AM
To: YON Donald R
Subject: RE: Kilchis River Success Story: future delisting-related text

Hi Don,

Sorry, I've been holding off while waiting to back from you about the final language on the Kilchis. On 1/19 you noted "I see that Gene Foster, my boss is working on developing some language which I will pass on next week, I hope." Has he gotten back to you about that yet?

Thanks,

Kary

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From: YON Donald R [<mailto:YON.Donald@deq.state.or.us>]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 7:49 PM
To: YON Donald R; JOHNSON York

Cc: Phillips, Kathryn

Subject: RE: Kilchis River Success Story: future delisting-related text

Kathryn, YORK is out of the office next week. Do know when I will get the success stories from you and York so I can inform my boss. Donald

From: YON Donald R

Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 4:46 PM

To: JOHNSON York

Cc: Phillips, Kathryn; YON Donald R

Subject: RE: Kilchis River Success Story: future delisting-related text

York when may I get Success stories? I need to get the draft 2014 NPS Annual Report done next week. Is that possible? I understand if it will take longer but not too long due to impact of receipt of 319 Funds from EPA> Don

From: JOHNSON York

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:10 AM

To: FOSTER Eugene P; URBANOWICZ Karla; YON Donald R

Cc: BRANNAN Kevin

Subject: RE: Kilchis River Success Story: future delisting-related text

I think that Gene has correctly outlined the situation in the Kilchis River. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Thanks,

York Johnson

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